

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

13 NOVEMBER 1979

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs CLWYD, Mr GLINNE, Mr CABORN, Mr MEGAHY,
Mr HUME, Mr SEEFELD, Mr GRIFFITHS, Mr ROGERS,
Mr PELIKAN, Mr van MINNEN, Mr HANSCH, Mr ESTIER,
Mrs GROES, Mr ZAGARI, Mr O'LEARY, Mr ABENS and
Mrs BUCHAN, on behalf of the Socialist Group

Mr PRICE, Mr PRAG, Mr PROUT, Mr CURRY, Miss HOOPER,
Mr von WOGAU, Lord BETHELL, Lord DOURO, Mr NEWTON DUNN,
Sir Henry PLUMB, Mr HOWELL, Mr R. JACKSON,
Mr I. FRIEDRICH, Mr van AERSSSEN, Mr ALBER, Mr JANSSEN
van RAAIJ, Mrs RABBETHGE, Mr LEMMER, Mrs AGNELLI,
Mrs von ALEMAN, Mr Konrad SCHON, Mr MAJONICA,
Mr CECOVINI, Mr AIGNER and Miss BROOKES

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the ~~/~~ External Service of the BBC

The European Parliament,

- believing that the External Service of the BBC has acquired a large world-wide audience and is looked on as a dispassionate and independent source of information about the world,
- 1. Views with concern the cutback of £2.7 million in its grant-in-aid by the Government of the United Kingdom;
- 2. Asserts that the cuts which will be made in the capital programme of the external services will lead to a rapid deterioration in the volume and quality of transmissions, making the broadcasts inaudible for millions of people in Eastern Europe and the Middle East;
- 3. Believes that the External Services of the BBC are trusted and reliable source of information for many thousands of people throughout the world, and urges the UK Government to reconsider its decision;
- 4. Instructs the President to forward this resolution to the Government of the United Kingdom.

Justification

A decision on the proposed cuts in the BBC's overseas service is likely to be taken within the next week, following a debate on 13 November in the House of Commons on public expenditure cuts.